



Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.



The Campaign to Restore the Ames Pantorium and Expand the Ames History Museum

The Making History Capital Campaign will preserve and restore the Ames Pantorium building (completed in 1926), add new construction for permanent and changing exhibit galleries and renovate the existing museum building for offices and on-site collections storage.

The expanded Ames History Museum will feature welcoming and unique gathering spaces for community use. Exhibits and programs will bring visitors to downtown Ames, foster community pride and identity and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with the past. The updated museum will have five times the current exhibit gallery space with a focus on active learning and discovery for all ages.

Look for more information about this community campaign in 2022.

As now envisioned, visitors will enter the museum through the historic Ames Pantorium entrance on Douglas Avenue. The **Teresa and Jami Larson Pantorium Lobby** will feature restored original terrazzo floors and tin ceilings.

In the planned addition to the east of the brick building, the **Permanent Exhibit Gallery** will explore themes including businesses, transportation and people from all backgrounds who shaped Ames. Also in the addition, the **Changing Exhibit Gallery** will house shorter-term exhibits that will explore special anniversaries, under-told stories and the impact of national events on local history.

Learning about local history through exhibits can foster perspective and empathy, spark nostalgia and provide a deeper understanding of how current events tie to the past.

Through a large window near the Exhibit Galleries, visitors can peer into the **Collections Vault** in the 416 Douglas brick building to see artifacts on display. The Collections Vault will house tens of thousands of photographs, maps, uniforms, artwork, quilts and furniture in a temperature-controlled environment, ensuring preservation of these important pieces of Ames history for future generations.

On the Pantorium's second floor, the **Fitch Family Gathering Hall** will provide a unique historic setting for community events and pop-up exhibits. The **Thelma and Marvin Miller Reading and Research Room** on the first floor will be a quiet space for visitors to use AHM's extensive archival and resource materials.

The expanded museum will provide:

- unique gathering spaces,
- opportunities for active learning and discovery,
- preservation of local history,
- community identity for future generations!

Curious about the Pantorium? Attend the Annual Meeting: Jan. 29!

A tour will be included in the Museum Membership's Annual Meeting, set for Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 10 am. Start at the Ames Public Library auditorium for a short business meeting. After that, members will be invited to tour the Pantorium and can stop by the Museum to see the "Black Trailblazers" exhibit and enjoy cookies and coffee.

Museum Open Hours Expanded



Open hours at the Museum are **Tuesday - Friday, 1 to 4 pm** and now, **Saturday 10am to 4pm**. Appointments may be made for other times. Masks are required.

At Year's End, Appealing To You

This year as the Museum slowly came back to life after pandemic closures, it presented **53** programs to **2,478** people, welcomed **668** visitors, increased online offerings (digitized resources and virtual exhibits), answered **244** research requests and preserved local history artifacts and archival materials.

The Museum has had some loss of income during the pandemic but is committed to having a positive impact in the community with enhanced program offerings and exhibits and preserved artifacts that tell the stories of all Ames people. The museum needs your support to grow its programs and services.



We are asking for that support!

You have or will soon receive our year-end letter. We **are so grateful** for all you have done up to now and hope you will consider making a donation to the museum.

Important 2021 Charitable Giving Tax Considerations

- ♦ Each person may deduct \$300 in charitable giving from federal gross income without itemizing.
- ♦ Qualified Charitable Distributions can begin at age 70 ½ even for those who don't need to begin Required Minimum Distributions until age 72.

Current Exhibit: Black Trailblazers



This exhibit explores the legacies of nine Black pioneers in Ames history – Jack Trice, George Washington Carver, Walter Madison, John and Nellie Shipp, Willa Juanita Ewing, James Herman Banning and Archie and Nancy Martin. You can step inside a replica of Banning's "Miss Ames" airplane, view crayon portraits of the Martins and learn more about each of these remarkable individuals whose contributions and actions reached far beyond Ames.



Visitors can step in and 'fly' Herman Banning's plane!



'Trailblazers' opened on August 31.

Benefit Wrap-up & Awardees



We were so pleased to have 149 people attend the 40th Birthday Party-themed benefit event at Prairie Moon Winery on August 27. Those who were present seemed eager to have a social event to go to – and to make a contribution to the Museum. The total net proceeds were **\$24,681.28** - more than double the next highest year's total! The Benefit featured award presentations, online, silent and live auctions, 'Fund the Need,' a tasty catered meal and pleasant fellowship.



In her party hat, Ames City Councilperson, Gloria Betcher, served as the auctioneer for the live auction.

History Maker: Sargent Family

The **Ames History Maker Award** honors an individual, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of our community.

The Sargent family has called Iowa home since the 1850s when they left Vermont to homestead in Jefferson County. The Sargents moved to the east side of Des Moines in 1888 and grew a prominent animal feed business selling across the Midwest.



Warren Sargent was the family's recent patriarch. His connection to Ames began in 1935 when he started at Iowa State College. While studying to become an engineer, he competed on the Iowa State track & field team, earning a Big Six 1938 indoor pole vaulting title. His school record would stand for years and the pole vault pit at Iowa State is named in his honor. The family track and field tradition continued with children and grandchildren competing in Ames High track and field and cross-country over the years, including at the Drake Relays and state track.

While at Iowa State, Warren met and married his wife, Margaret. Margaret grew up in Ames, the daughter of prominent Iowa State professor, Barton Morgan. Shortly after college, the newlyweds' lives – along with so many others – were interrupted as World War II broke out in Europe and the Pacific.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Warren enlisted in the Army and Margaret was left in Ames, pregnant with their first child as he went off to war. He was stationed in New Guinea from 1942-45 constructing airstrips to support US efforts in the Pacific. Warren did not see his daughter Ann until she was three years old, when he returned home from the war.

(continued next page)

Benefit Wrap-up & Awardees

In 1958, Warren partnered with George Todd, owner of an established local construction company, to create Todd & Sargent. The business served the engineering and construction needs of a growing agricultural industry throughout the Midwest. In the decades since George Todd retired, the Sargent family kept the company running, proudly calling Ames home.

Warren's sons, Lee and Phil, both Iowa State graduates, took over management of the company in 1983. Phil's son Jon took over as president in 2018. The industry-leading company continues under its third generation of Sargent family leadership with roughly 300 employees performing work across the United States and Canada.

While Lee and Phil were taking over Todd & Sargent, their brother, Dan, also an Iowa State graduate, started his own business in 1982. Ortho2, based in Ames, serves the software needs of orthodontists around the world. Dan's daughter Amy Sargent Schmidt now serves as president of the company. Amy's children represent the seventh generation of the Sargent family in Iowa and the fifth generation in Ames.

Volunteering and philanthropy have been part of the Sargent family legacy through the generations. The family has supported and served in leadership roles for many Ames organizations and initiatives, including Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, YSS, PEO, Ames Miracle Playground & Field, the Leadership Ames Cyclone City project and many, many other philanthropic organizations and efforts.

The Museum was pleased to present the Ames History Maker Award to the Sargent family. With five generations calling Ames home, two family businesses, and wide-reaching community involvement, the Sargent family has quietly been a meaningful part of the story of our city and will continue to help write that story for years to come.

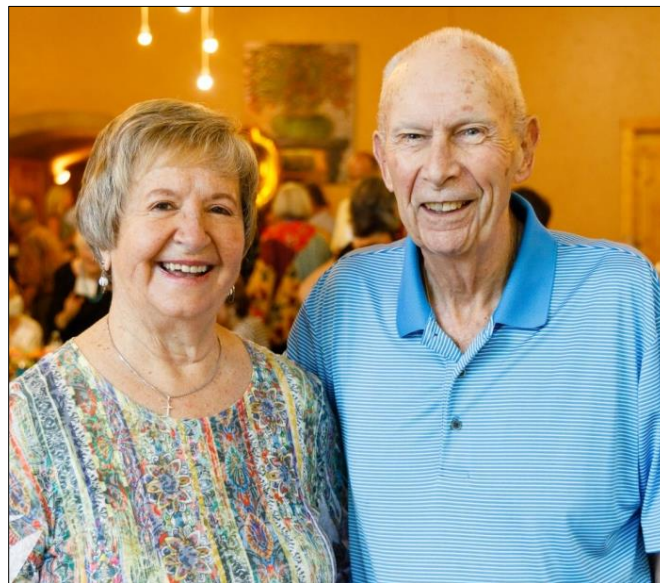


A special 4.26 minute video about the Sargent family was created for the Benefit, featuring older family pictures as well as current day scenes.

View it at www.ameshistory.org/party or on YouTube.

History Maker: Ted Tedesco

During the last 60-plus years, Ted Tedesco has brought vision and leadership to myriad events, projects and changes in Ames. He is known for his unparalleled dedication to community betterment, where economic development, community livability and natural and manmade resource protection and restoration meet.



Joanie and Ted Tedesco

Born in Council Bluffs, Ted came to Ames in 1954 to attend college. He began his career at McDowell's Insurance and Real Estate in 1958. In 1968 Ted started his own insurance agency and two years later joined A.B. 'Beezer' Knapp to form Knapp Tedesco Insurance.

Ted's community involvement began as an Ames Jaycee in the 1960s. At that time, the Jaycees was arguably the most visible community service group, organizing and running the annual 4th of July carnival and fireworks display, collecting and delivering food baskets to needy residents before Christmas and building sandboxes for families.

In 1987, Jackie Manatt and Ted co-chaired the successful bond issue that supported the conversion of the old high school/Central Jr. High building into the Ames City Hall – an example of his eye toward preservation and conservation.

Ted's formal city service began when he was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, serving from 1988 to 1993. He was then elected to the Ames City Council and served from 1994 to 1997, then stepped into the role of mayor from 1998 through 2005.

(Continued next page.)

Benefit Wrap-up & Awardees

A former elected city official said: "Ted was a good mayor – very accessible. He kept office hours but was always willing to meet with people outside of those hours. He even positioned his desk so that it faced everyone walking by the office, so he could greet them."

Ted played a key role in the acquisition and development of Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Developers had plans to build large, high-end homes around the former Hallett's Quarry. The proposed project met with a lot of community resistance. A former city council member recalls a meeting that had this conundrum on the agenda: "Ted walked in and proposed that the city buy back the land from that developer and create a park with walking trails around a lake." And that's what they did.

Ted developed new relationships with ISU stakeholders. He held joint meetings with students and administrators to glean input on city issues. It was Ted who created the elected ex-officio ISU student seat on the city council. He also created a City Youth Committee.

After retiring as mayor, Ted's passion for the outdoors and water quality led to his appointment to the Story County Conservation Board. He helped develop the vision for what became the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. During the five years of planning and development Ted coined the Four Cs: Collaboration, Conservation, Cooperation and Connectivity. The 37-acre park serves as an example of synergy among commercial development, quality of life improvements and natural resource conservation.

A former museum board member said of Ted: "He is smart, down-to-earth, friendly, approachable, accessible, and greets people by name. He is not flashy and works earnestly to do what's best for the community, not for personal gain. He listens well to people from various sectors and comes up with viable solutions. His leadership style is not unlike that of Parley Sheldon [Ames mayor more than a century ago]."



A special 5.21 minute video about Ted Tedesco was created for the Benefit, featuring older personal pictures as well as current day involvements. View it at www.ameshistory.org/party.

Museum News

2022 Museum Lecture Series

Save these dates!

Lectures will be presented 'hybrid' - both in-person in the Ames Public Library auditorium and online.

Tue., March 29, 7pm - HYBRID

Josiah Grinnell & the Iowa Underground Railroad

Wed., April 27, 7pm - HYBRID

A Ride on the Dinkey

Tue., May 24, 7pm

To Be Announced

Wed., June 8, 7pm - HYBRID

The 1920s Building Boom in Downtown Ames

Wed., June 29, 7pm - HYBRID

Ames Does Its Homework:

Public Schools Meet the Next Century

The Lecture Series is presented in partnership with the Ames Public Library. Free and open to the public.

News Shorts

- ♦ The Museum **assisted ESPN** in recording footage of Jack Trice in the "Black Trailblazers" exhibit for the September 11 College Game Day program at ISU.
- ♦ Our part-time Office Assistant, Savanna, researched, designed and installed an exhibit about **Ames' medical history**, with information and artifacts from local pharmacies, early patent medicines and Mary Greeley Medical Center. On view now.
- ♦ As part of the Re-imagine Campaign (pg. 6), the Museum received an Iowa Arts Council **grant of \$2,500** to help promote safe resumption of activities and programs as the pandemic eases.
- ♦ Diana Carlin, the 2020 lecture series speaker whose topic was First Ladies, has **donated an impressive book** to the Ames Public Library: *A Companion to First Ladies*, edited by Katherine Sibley.
- ♦ Iowa's Department of Cultural Affairs unveiled a new collection of **online resources**, part of the ongoing *Days of Learning*, an initiative that connects educators, students, parents and lifelong learners with a showcase of Iowa's arts, history, humanities, film and culture. Go to: <https://iowaculture.gov/DOL/Celebrate-Moments-Cultures>

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Introducing Board Members

Board members of non-profit organizations provide vital leadership and support. We'd like to let you know more about the dynamic volunteers who make up the Museum's Board of Directors. *(Last of a series.)*

LYNETTE SPICER didn't grow up in Ames but married into an Ames family. Her mother-in-law had deep roots in Story County back to Henry Michael Cook who came about 1870, Rosanna Elwood in the 1850s and Emanuel Smith by 1885. Lynette grew up on a farm in Woodbury County, came to college in Ames and never left. She worked for the Iowa State Daily as business manager, for the U.S. Census Bureau covering Story and Marshall Counties conducting the monthly employment survey and retired from ISU Extension communications where she wrote, edited and did marketing work. She edited one of Farwell Brown's books. Her passions are genealogy, gardening and travel. She joined the AHM board in 2011, has served as secretary and is currently president. Her focus is to involve many people to make the Ames History Museum a really interesting place to visit – a destination for residents and visitors alike.

**Involve Many
People**

SHARON WIRTH grew up in rural Black Hawk County, came to ISU, met her husband and stayed. She became immersed in Ames history when working to establish the Old Town Historic District. Sharon is a long-time board member first joining in the mid-1980s. After serving 16 years on the Ames City Council, she returned to the AHM board in 2008. She is currently

**Passion Is
Preservation**

involved with the Martin House project, the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion group and planning for the capital campaign. Sharon retired from the ISU Apparel Design program after teaching and serving as lab coordinator for 16 years. Her passion is preserving historic architecture, most recently evidenced by organizing the Plaques for Historic Buildings program in downtown Ames. She enjoys living at the Roosevelt Condos, located in the former Roosevelt Elementary School. Sharon believes we must understand where we have come from to grasp where we are going.



WAYNE CLINTON was born and raised in St. Louis. He remembers being one of just 12 Black students in his high school in the late 1950s. He earned his bachelor's and master's at Northeast Missouri University where he played basketball and competed in track. He came to Ames to teach junior high social studies and coach. By the time he retired 30 years later, Wayne had coached basketball, track and softball at Ames High School. Wayne served four terms on the Story County Board of Supervisors, retiring in 2016. He held leadership roles in the Iowa State Association of Counties and was awarded the organization's Golden Eagle Award for his contributions to county government. He was inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame in 2017. He joined the AHM board in 2019. Wayne enjoys learning and helping others learn more about the rich history of Ames.

**Helping
Others Learn**

RE IMAGINE
RE ENGAGE
RE CONNECT

IOWA HISTORY & CULTURE RETURN.

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has launched a campaign to encourage Iowans to reconnect with and rediscover the people, places and events that enliven our world and make our state unique!

They hope you will:

- Renew your love of performances, film, museums and arts and historical attractions,
- Re-engage with Iowa arts, culture, film, history and the humanities,
- Enhance your personal well-being, support our creative workforce and strengthen our communities!

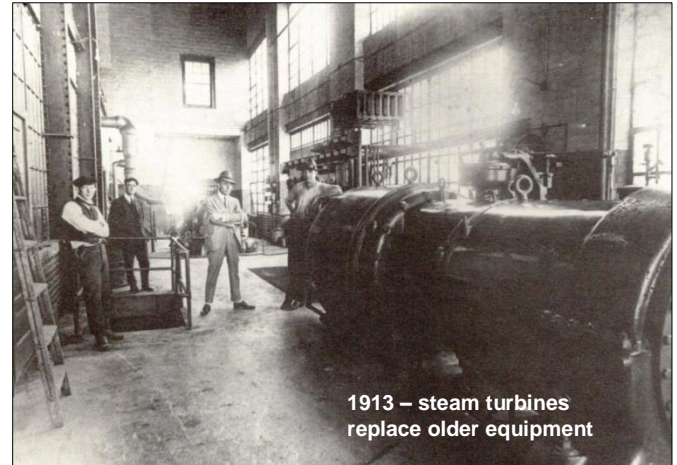
The Museum fully supports their efforts!

Information at <https://iowaculture.gov> or
<https://www.traveliowa.com>.

Powerful 125 Years: Brief History of City of Ames Electric Department

The city-owned Ames Electric utility marks its 125th Anniversary this year. Its story is one of continuous improvement. Residential customers pay an average of 29% less than customers of surrounding utilities.

- 1895** 20 year franchise granted to private company to operate and maintain electric light plant. Lights to be furnished at reasonable hours, not later than midnight nor earlier than 5 a.m.
- 1896** Since franchisee took no action, Council put up a bond issue of \$12,000 for a municipal plant. Passed: for – 298, against – 40.
- 1897** Contract with Iowa State to furnish/maintain electric service in 4th Ward for \$50/year.
- 1901** 175 consumers using electric service.
- 1902** City built transmission line to 4th Ward.
- 1904** 350 consumers using electric service.
- 1908** Election to sell light plant lost by eleven votes.
- 1915** Light plant building extended and enlarged.
- 1928** Additional land west of plant purchased.
- 1933** Power plant building extended north.
- 1934** Distribution system voltage increased. \$18,000 profit—rates reduced 15%
- 1947** A 60,000/lb/hr steam generator installed.
- 1948** 25x60 ft. addition to light plant.
- 1949** Construction started on new light plant and equipment to house Unit No. 5 generator.
- 1951** New light plant placed in operation. 7500 K.W. Turbo-generator – 13800 V., 95000 lb./hour steam generator operating at 600 psi, 825 T.T. on gas or coal. Coal and ash conveyor equipment added. 2-substations completed and 13.8 K.V. distribution system completed. Plant Cost: \$2,400,000.
- 1957** Interconnection with Iowa Power and Light Co. for power interchange and reserve requirements via 69,000 volt transmission line.
- 1958** Power Plant addition of 12 MW Unit #6. Plant cost: \$2,000,000.
- 1961** Began underground network project for Central Business District.
- 1961** Began 4-year major street lighting program to add to and upgrade system.
- 1963** Interchange agreement and interconnection with Iowa State power plant to provide energy exchange and reserve capacity.



1913 – steam turbines replace older equipment

- 1966** Began construction of 69 KV loop and remote 69 KV to 13.8 KV substations.
- 1967** Electrostatic precipitator for emissions control exceed environmental rules.
- 1975** Solid Waste Recovery Plant placed in operation by the City of Ames, burning Refuse Derived Fuel (RFD).
- 1980** Completed Electric Administration and Engineering office building.
- 1983** November vote to sell the City Electric Utility to private entity fails. City maintains ownership and operation.
- 1993** 69,000 volt transmission line connects utility with Iowa State University
- 1996** Marks 100 years of operation. Residential customers pay an average of 29% less than customers of surrounding utilities.
- 2003** Purchase Munn Lumber Property, 408 Duff.
- 2005** Hanson Lumber Property is acquired.
- 2013** July 8, 1:05 pm, GT-1 suffered a catastrophic turbine compressor failure.
- 2015** Unit 8 Coal to Natural Gas Conversion and Cooling Tower Superstructure Replacement projects began.
- 2020** Ground was broken for the 2 MW SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project on Airport Rd.
- 2020** Aug 10: A Derecho storm downed all three tie lines and tripped all of AMES and ISU generation. Utility employees worked feverishly for days restoring power.
- 2020** December 10: The Smart Ames Community Solar Project started providing energy to the AMES electric distribution system.

See the extensive exhibit in the Museum's hallway!

Ames History Museum
PO Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

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Ames History Museum Board:

President: Lynette Spicer
Secretary: Peter Hallock
Vice-President: Bob Bourne
Treasurer: Ken Cameron
Don Beitz, Wayne Clinton, Becky Jordan, Chris Nelson, Kate Orngard, Ryan Riley, Tracey Stoll, Sharon Wirth. Monthly Board meetings are virtual on the 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Members Welcome!

Museum Staff: Executive Director: Casie Vance
Research/Exhibits Manager: Alex Fejfar
Collections Manager: Madeline Mongar-Brodie
Office Assistant: Savannah Johnson

Emeritus Staff: Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Museum: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010 Phone: 515-232-2148
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 Hours: T-F: 1-4 pm, Sa: 10 am-4 pm
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistory
Search 'Ames History Museum' on Instagram and YouTube

The newsletter is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or email info@ameshistory.org. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Closed for the season.



*ESPN
filmed a
segment
at the
Museum
about Jack
Trice (see
page 5).*

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

Introductory (1st year): \$25	Friend: \$50
Sustaining: \$120	Partner: \$250
Benefactor: \$500	Patron: \$1,000
Business Supporting: \$100	Business Executive: \$500

Name _____

Address _____

Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010